

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7701

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0347

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, CVIS, BU

SUBJECT: EXIT VISA PROBLEMS IN BULGARIA

REF: A. STATE 044444; B. STATE 187351; C. SOFIA 1278

D. SOFIA 0071

1. EMBASSY'S MAY 1973 FIGURES ON FAMILY GROUPS WAITING FOR GOB PERMISSION TO DEPART COUNTRY MAY BE UPDATED AS FOLLOWS:

A. OF 49 INTENDING IMMIGRANTS, FOUR HAVE LEFT THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY. NONE HAVE BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO LEAVE. FOUR NEW CASES HAVE DEVELOPED. TOTAL PROSPECTIVE IMMIGRANTS KNOWN TO EMBASSY REMAINS 49.

B. OF 12 PROSPECTIVE TEMPORARY VISITORS, NONE HAVE RECEIVED PERMISSION TO LEAVE. FOUR NEW CASES HAVE DEVELOPED. TOTAL PROSPECTIVE TEMPORARY VISITORS KNOWN TO EMBASSY IS 16.

C. OF 8 DUAL NATIONALS, TWO HAVE BEEN GRANTED EXIT PERMISSION. TOTAL REMAINING IS 6.

2. NEITHER LIST SUBMITTED IN SOFIA 1278 (SEPTEMBER 24, 1973) NOR MORE EXTENSIVE LIST FORWARDED UNDER EMBASSY'S A-143 (JULY 4, 1973) HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO GOB (SEE SOFIA A-143).

3. OTHER THAN INKIOW AND DIMITROVA CASES CITED REFTEL A, PARA 4, EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO OTHER CASES WHICH MIGHT BE ADDED TO BULGARIAN EXIT VISA PROBLEM LIST.

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4. ONLY CASES IN WHICH EMBASSY INTERVENTION WHICH MAY NOT BE RECORDED AT DEPARTMENT WERE THOSE OF TWO DUAL NATIONALS. IN ONE CASE, EXIT PERMISSION WAS GRANTED; ON THE OTHER IT WAS DENIED. THE GENERAL QUESTION WAS RAISED WITH HEAD OF THE EIGHTH DEPARTMENT, MFA, AMBASSADOR ABRAMOV ON JANUARY 17 WHEN HE AGREED IT WAS A PROBLEM WE SHOULD WORK ON RESOLVING (SEE REFTEL D).

5. AGREE THAT FORTHCOMING ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR HERZ FURNISHES SUITABLE OCCASION FOR BRINGING FULL DIMENSIONS OF US CONCERN RE DIVIDED FAMILIES TO ATTENTION OF BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES. WILL SUGGEST TO AMBASSADOR THAT DURING PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS, HE RAISE THE DIVIDED FAMILY ISSUE WITH ZHIVKOV AND HAND THE LIST OVER TO FOREIGN MINISTER SUBSEQUENTLY. BELIEVE WE MUST WORK FOR FAVORABLE GOB POLICY DECISION ON ISSUE AND THIS ONLY LIKELY THROUGH HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS. ONCE FAVORABLE GOB DECISION MADE, LOWER LEVEL REPRESENTATION ON SPECIFIC CASES PROBABLY WILL PROVE EFFECTIVE.
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